

Mark 1:1-13 – Prepare the Way of the Lord!
Supporting Passages

Mark introduces the prophetic ministry of John the Baptist by quoting the Old Testament.

Malachi 3:1

[1] **“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me.** And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. (ESV)

Isaiah 40:3–5

[3] **A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.** [4] Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. [5] And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” (ESV)

John the Baptist was the prophesied Elijah figure.

Malachi 4:5–6

[5] **“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.** [6] And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.” (ESV)

The Angel Gabriel tells Zechariah that he and Elizabeth would have a son named John.

Luke 1:13–17

[13] **But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.** [14] And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, [15] for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. [16] And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, [17] and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.” (ESV)

Zechariah rejoices at the birth of his son and describes John’s future ministry.

Luke 1:76–80

[76] **And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, [77] to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, [78] because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high [79] to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” [80] And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel. (ESV)**